104-10178-10395

Department of State TELEGRAM

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISTRIBUTION — TOTAL COPIES

FILE RF. [illegible]

[illegible] DESTROY DIRECTOR SECRET EUR3 CA3:1 DOP SJDG

CONFIDENTIAL HCM429

PAGE 01 LISBON 01567 141828Z

53
ACTION EUR 20

INFO SS 20,GPM 04,L 03,H 02,P 04,USIE 00,INR 07,CIAE 00,NSA 22,EY 03,
FBI 01,NSC 12,PPT 02,SCS 04,SCA 02,RSR 01,RSC 01,/086 W

R 141620Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2174
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1567

SUBJ: PRESENCE OF JAMES EARL RAY IN PORTUGAL

PASS USIA

PARIS FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

1. DESPITE EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS OF PRESENCE IN PORTUGAL FOR SOME DAYS IN MAY OF ALLEGED KILLER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO MENTION IN LOCAL PRESS OF THIS FACT.

2. NONETHELESS BY LAST WEEKEND INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPORTERS HERE HAD WIND OF PORTUGUESE ANGLE OF STORY AND HAD BEEN JOINED BY FAIRLY LARGE GROUP OF REPS FROM ENGLISH AND AMERICAN PRESS, MAGAZINES AND TV SEEKING DETAILS. INITIALLY THESE REPORTERS WERE FRUSTRATED BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTY TRACING RAY/SNEYD'S ACTIVITIES DURING HIS STAY AND INABILITY TO FIND ANY SOURCES OF HARD INFO. EVENTUALLY REPORTERS DUG OUT NAME OF LOCAL HOTEL WHERE RAY, UNDER NAME OF SNEYD, HAD BEEN STAYING AND INTERVIEWED HOTEL EMPLOYEES, GIRLS IN NEARBY BARS AND OTHER LOW LEVEL SOURCES WHO, WE GATHER, WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANYTHING OTHER THAN LOCAL COLOR.

3. FOR DEPT'S INFO, WE BELIEVE REPORTERS, ESPECIALLY FROM LIFE, HAVE PURSUED TWO ANGLES HERE WHICH THEY MAY SEEK TO USE. FIRST OF THESE IS EXCHANGE OF

CONFIDENTIAL

RECORD COPY

JFK ACT RELEASE

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT 12-13-94

DST-29061

201-0532732

The Department of State has no objection to the release or declassification of this document in full under the provisions of the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (PL102-526)

Reviewed on 10/31/94

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
☒ Retain class'n ☐ Change/classify to ____
☐ With concurrence of ____
☒ Declassify ☐ In part and excise as shown
EO 12356, Sec. 1.3 (a) ( )
by [illegible] 10/31/94

Department of State

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEM BY PER # TOTAL COPIES **TELEGRAM**

FILE. RF.

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTES CONNECTED WITH 1908 PORTUGAL/US EXTRADITION TREATY WHICH APPEARS TO FORECLOSE EXTRADITION TO US OF PERSON CHARGED WITH CAPITAL CRIME. WE UNDERSTAND REPORTERS MAY BE BUILDING ON THIS LIMITATION A SCENARIO BY WHICH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES, POSSIBLY INCLUDING EMBASSY, WERE AWARE OF RAY/SNEYD'S PRESENCE HERE BUT DID NOTHING ABOUT IT BECAUSE OF EXTRADITION TREATY PROVISO, INSTEAD WAITING UNTIL HE WAS SOMEPLACE WHERE SUCH RESTRICTION DID NOT EXIST. ALTHOUGH EMBOFFS IN GOOD CONSCIENCE DENIED THEY HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE DURING DATES RAY/SNEYD WAS REPORTEDLY IN PORTUGAL OF HIS PRESENCE IN PORTUGAL, AND MADE NO COMMENT AFTER LEARNING OF FACTS FROM FBI REP, WE ARE NOT SURE THESE DENIALS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IN LIGHT OF "ANGLE" REPORTERS HAVE DISCOVERED.

4. OTHER ANGLE WAS THAT RAY/SNEYD CAME HERE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF ENLISTING AS MERCENARY GIVEN ALLEGED REPUTATION OF LISBON AS CENTER FOR MERCENARY RECRUITMENT. WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHAT RAY/SNEYD MAY HAVE DONE ALONG THESE LINES NOR DO WE KNOW WHAT REPORTERS MAY HAVE FILED IN THIS CONNECTION. FONMINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT CIRCULATION OF THIS PARTICULAR RUMOR IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS WAS ONE REASON WHY GOP HAD WITHHELD ANY STATEMENT OF FACTS TO PRESS UNTIL JUNE 12. HE ADDED GOP HAD ALSO WISHED TO GIVE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES ADEQUATE TIME TO CHECK AVAILABLE FACTS.

5. FONMINISTRY INFO DIRECTOR CALLED IN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPS JUNE 12. REPORTERS WERE GIVEN BRIEF FACTUAL ACCOUNT, INCLUDING DATES WHEN RAY/SNEYD HAD BEEN HERE, ISSUANCE SECOND CANADIAN PASSPORT BY CANADIAN EMBASSY LISBON, THAT PIDE HAD BEEN COOPERATING WITH FBI WHICH HAD SENT REP TO LISBON TO CHECK INTO RAY/SNEYD'S STAY HERE, THAT GOP HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS STAY HERE AT THAT TIME, AND THAT THERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES HERE AS FAR AS AUTHORITIES COULD DETERMINE. PORTUGUESE REPORTERS APPARENTLY STILL PREVENTED BY CENSORSHIP FROM PUBLISHING ANY MENTION OF RAY/SNEYD'S PRESENCE IN PORTUGAL. GP-4.

CONFIDENTIAL